[22nd July 1953

persuasion, and about 71 acres of waste land in Palghat taluk have been brought under cultivation by persuasion. Also the mere publication of the Order has induced the landholders in the district in many cases, to bring the waste lands in their possession under the plough.

Section 52-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, empowers the Government to direct the landlord of any waste land to lease it for agricultural purposes. The question of authorising officers and framing rules under Section 52-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, is under the consideration of the Government."

Water-supply scheme for Vayalpad town.

* 900 *Q.*—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the water-supply scheme of Vayalpad town was taken up;

(*b*) at what stage it is at present; and

(*c*) when it will be completed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) The execution of the scheme was taken up sometime before 1940; but due to the War, the work was suspended and resumed in 1949.

" (*b*) All the items of work relating to the scheme except some minor items and distribution system have been completed. Further work on the distribution system will be taken up on receipt of pipes and specials for which an indent is being placed.

" (*c*) The work is expected to be completed by the end of 1954."

Educational concessions to the students of backward classes.

* 901 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the action taken by the Government in cases where the managements fail to comply with rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules regarding educational concessions to students of backward classes?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—" So far, no case has come up to the notice of the Education Department where managements have failed to comply with the provisions of rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules regarding fee concessions."

Closing of gruel centres for weavers in Cuddapah.

* 902 *Q.*—SRI K. RAMIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collector of Cuddapah has recently ordered the closing of gruel centres started for the benefit of weavers in distress; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the same?

22nd July 1953]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) The Collector, Cuddapah, has ordered the closure of 16 gruel centres which were opened *in the rural areas* of Cuddaph district. Three gruel centres opened *in the urban areas* are functioning.

" (b) The policy of the Government is to open special gruel centres for weavers' families only in big urban weaving centres."

Closure of gruel centres for weavers in Cuddapah.

* 903 Q.—SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered the closing down of gruel centres in all the handloom weavers' centres which are in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have ordered the closing down of the gruel centres in the following weavers' villages: Pullampet, Kothapet, Puttanavaripalle and Singareddipalle in Cuddapah district; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) In the opinion of the Government, it is necessary to run gruel centres for weavers' families only in big urban weaving centres. As the four centres referred to were in rural areas, they were ordered to be closed down."

Appointment of contractors for midday meals in the Labour Schools of North Arcot.

* 904 Q.—SRI D. DASARATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether midday meals contractors have been appointed for the Labour schools of North Arcot district for the year 1953–54; and

(b) if so, how many of them are Harijans and how many of them are Caste-Hindus?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) Yes, except for one school. In the one school the Headmaster is attending to this work as neither a Harijan nor a Caste-Hindu is available to take up this work.

" (b) Out of 150 contractors appointed, 143 are Harijans and 7 are Caste-Hindus."